

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed 3 December 2007 has been received and considered.

CLAIM REJECTION UNDER 35 USC 112:

Claims 18, 19 and 25-28 presently stand rejected under 35 USC 112 as being indefinite. Responsive to the suggestion of the Examiner, applicant has amended claims 18, 19 and 25-27 by substituting the word "obtained" for the word "obtainable." In view of this amendment and the previous indication of the Examiner that such an amendment would rectify the indefiniteness issue, applicant submits that the referenced claims should now be allowable under 35 USC 112. Withdrawal of the instant rejection is therefore respectfully requested..

CLAIM OBJECTIONS:

Claims 22, 23 and 27 presently stand objected to in view of the perceived misspelling of certain compound names. Applicant has reviewed the referenced claims and has corrected the referenced misspellings. In view of these corrections, applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of the objections.

With respect to claim 28, applicant has amended this claim to now be directed to the product resultant from the process set forth in claim 8. In view of this reformulation of the claim, it would appear that the rejection under 35 USC 112 has now been overcome.

CLAIM REJECTION UNDER 35 USC 101:

Claim 28 stands rejected under 35 USC 101 as being a recitation of a use without any steps being recited. As noted above, claim 28 has now been amended to be directed to the product of the process of claim 8. In view of this amendment, claim 28 is no longer directed to a use without any recited steps. In view of the referenced amendment, applicant respectfully maintains that the rejection under 35 USC 101 has been obviated. Withdrawal of the rejection is therefore requested.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 USC 103:

Claims 16 and 23 stand rejected under 35 USC 103 over Sardjiman et al (hereinafter “Sardjiman”).

With reference to claim 16, applicant has amended the claim to require the further limitation that the mixing of the vanillin and acetone in an acidic medium be performed under ultrasonic irradiation. Sardjiman does not appear to teach nor suggest mixing under ultrasonic irradiation. In the absence of such a teaching or suggestion in Sardjiman, applicant respectfully submits that the amended claim 16 distinguishes over the Sardjiman disclosure.

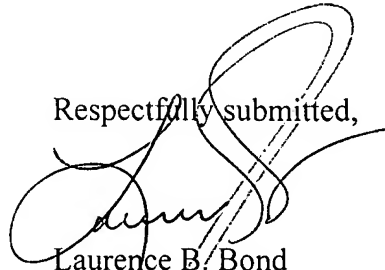
Concerning claim 23, applicant has now reformulated claim 23 as a dependent claim, which depends from claim 22. Although claim 22 has been objected to, claim 22 has not been rejected under 35 USC 103 or 35 USC 102. As noted above, applicant has amended claim 22 to obviate the basis of the objection to that claim. In view of these amendments claim 22 should now be in condition for allowance. Since claim 23 now depends from claim 22, applicant submits that claim 23 should now be allowable for the same reasons which support the allowability of claim 22 and furthermore, claim 23 should be allowable in view of the additional limitations set forth in claim 23.

In view of the considerations indicated above, applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of the rejections of claims 16 and 23.

CONCLUSIONS:

In view of the amendments set forth above and the reasoning advanced, applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the instant application and the claims thereof.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Laurence B. Bond', is written over the typed name and address.

Laurence B. Bond
Registration No. 30,549
Attorney for Applicants
TRASK/BRITT, PC
P.O. Box 2550
Salt Lake City, Utah 84110-2550
Telephone: 801-532-1922

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